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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER  
POST OFFICE BOX 2821  
WASHINGTON 13, D.C.

Copy 23  
7 Pages

16 August 1961  
NPIC/IM-8/61

# MINICARD COPY

MEMORANDUM FOR : Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence  
(CIA/OSI)

THROUGH : TALENT Control Officer, CIA/OSI

ATTENTION :

SUBJECT : Search for Indications of Nuclear Testing in  
Areas of Seismic Events (3 May - 13 June 1961)  
in the USSR and China.

REFERENCES : (a) Requirement OSI/R-77/61  
(b) NPIC Project JN 165/61

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to present the results of a photographic search of 55 unidentified seismic events in 1961, submitted with OSI Requirement R-77/61. The search was for signs of preparations for, or effects of, clandestine nuclear testing in the USSR and China. No indications of nuclear testing were identified.

2. Where photography was available, an area having a radius of at least 25 nautical miles (nm) from the coordinates of the epicenter of each event was searched. In many cases, only part of the area was covered by photography, and in some cases the area was partially or completely obscured by clouds and/or haze. Photography prior to [redacted] was not used.

3. It should be kept in mind that the characteristics of some of the photography (small scale, poor image quality, obliquity, partial coverage, weather conditions, etc.) considerably hindered the photo search.

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**4. The following is the status of photographic coverage of the epicenters of seismic events from** [REDACTED]

<b>a. Epicenters with partial or complete photographic coverage</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>b. Epicenters without photographic coverage</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>c. Epicenters 25 nm or more from land</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>* TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>

**5. Attached is the list of seismic events, in the order of occurrence, giving the location, photographic coverage available, and the results of the photographic interpretation search.**

**FOR THE DIRECTOR, NPIC**

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[REDACTED]  
**Operations Officer**

**Enclosure:**

**Photographic Coverage of Areas of Unidentified Seismic Events.**

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**NPIC/PAG** [REDACTED] **7 August 1961)**

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF AREAS OF UNIDENTIFIED SEISMIC EVENTS

DATE OF SEISMIC EVENT	LOCATION and COORDINATES	WAC	REMARKS
3 May 61	Kuril Islands 44-15N/150E	280	82 nm from land in Pacific Ocean.
3 May 61	Kamchatka 54-45N/159E	194	Complete coverage. Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent ident.
3 May 61	Kuril Islands 49N/155E	206	No photographic coverage.
5 May 61	Kamchatka 54N/159E	194	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
5 May 61	Tien Shan Region 41N/79-30E	329	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
6 May 61	Coast of Kamchatka 59-30N/157-30E	132	76 nm from land in Sea of Okhotsk.
7 May 61	Kuril Islands 44N/149-30E	280	No photographic coverage.
7 May 61	Kuril Islands 43-45N/151-30E	280	105 nm (minimum) from land in Pacific Ocean.
8 May 61	Kuril Islands 49N/150-45E	205	60 nm from land in Sea of Okhotsk.
8 May 61	Kuril Islands 44N/148-30E	280	63 nm from land in Pacific Ocean.
11 May 61	Kuril Islands 44N/149E	280	74 nm from land in Pacific Ocean.

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12 May 61	Kuril Islands 47N/152-30E	280		No photographic coverage.	
12 May 61	Tien Shan Region 40N/74-30E	328,335		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
13 May 61	Sinkiang Prov. 41N/86E	330		No photographic coverage.	
13 May 61	Komandorskiye Island Region 55-45N/166E	193		No photographic coverage.	
17 May 61	Kuril Islands 43-45N/150-30E			120 nm from land in North Pacific Ocean.	
17 May 61	Kuril Islands 49N/155E	206		No photographic coverage.	
17 May 61	Tien Shan Region 39-30N/78-30E	335		No photographic coverage.	
18 May 61	China 34N/99E	435		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
18 May 61	Kamchatka 54-15N/161-30E	194		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
19 May 61	Hindu Kush 37-30N/73E	336		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
20 May 61	Tien Shan Region 39-30N/77-30E	335		No photographic coverage.	
20 May 61	Kuril Islands 44N/148-30E	280		63 nm from land in Pacific Ocean.	
20 May 61	Kuril Islands 44-30N/150E	280		68 nm from land in Pacific Ocean.	

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21 May 61	Sinkiang-USSR Border 48N/86E	239,243	[Redacted]	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	[Redacted]
21 May 61	Kuril Islands 43-30N/149E			101 nm from land in North Pacific Ocean.	
22 May 61	Kuril Islands 50N/155E	206		Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
22 May 61	Tien Shan Region 39-15N/76E	335		Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
22 May 61	Kuril Islands 49-15N/155-15E	206		No photographic coverage.	
25 May 61	Tien Shan Region 39-45N/78E	335		No photographic coverage.	
25 May 61	Kuril Islands 50N/154-30E	206		No photographic coverage.	
27 May 61	Hindu Kush Region 35-30N/70-30E	431		No photographic coverage.	
29 May 61	Kamchatka 55-15N/159-45E	194	[Redacted]	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	[Redacted]
31 May 61	Kuril Islands 48-30N/154-30E	206		No photographic coverage.	
1 Jun 61	Kamchatka 54-45N/161E	194		Complete coverage. Partial coverage. Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
1 Jun 61	Kuril Islands 43-15N/148-30E			81 nm from land in North Pacific Ocean.	

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1 Jun 61	Kuril Islands 44N/148-30E	194	25X1	63 nm from land in North Pacific Ocean.	25X1
1 Jun 61	Kamchatka 54-30N/161E	194		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
3 Jun 61	Kamchatka 56N/164-30E	132,194		40 nm from land in Bering Sea.	
4 Jun 61	Kuril Islands 46-45N/149-45E	280		40 nm from land in Pacific Ocean.	
4 Jun 61	Hindu Kush Region 37N/72-30E	336		Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
5 Jun 61	China 34N/104-30E	384		No photographic coverage.	
6 Jun 61	Tien Shan Region 40N/78E	329,335		No photographic coverage.	
7 Jun 61	Kuril Islands 45N/149E	280		No photographic coverage.	
8 Jun 61	Kuril Islands 48N/151-15E	206,280		65 nm from land in North Pacific Ocean.	
8 Jun 61	China 32-15N/97E	435		Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
9 Jun 61	Hindu Kush Region 34-15N/74E	431,432		No photographic coverage.	
9 Jun 61	Caspian Sea 41N/51E	325,326		47 nm from land in Caspian Sea.	
9 Jun 61	Tien Shan Region 39-30N/75E	335		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	

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10 Jun 61	Off Kamchatka 53N/160E	194		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
10 Jun 61	China 29-45N/96-30E	436		Partial coverage. Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
11 Jun 61	Off Kamchatka 52N/160E	194,206		64 nm from land in North Pacific Ocean.	
11 Jun 61	China 25N/99E	555		Partial coverage. Complete coverage. Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
12 Jun 61	Coast of Kamchatka 51-45N/157-30E	194,206		Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
13 Jun 61	China 28-30N/97E	436		No photographic coverage.	

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